



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

For fun early literacy activities that help kids get ready to read, check out our [website](#).

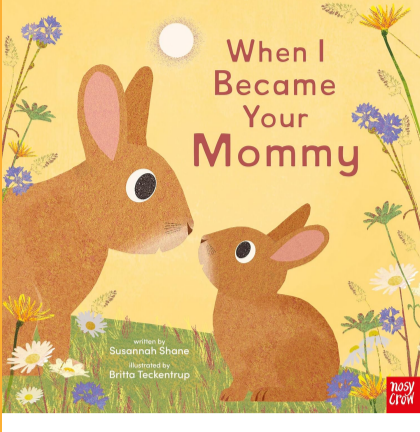
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

View and print the [December Early Literacy Calendar](#).

## Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER



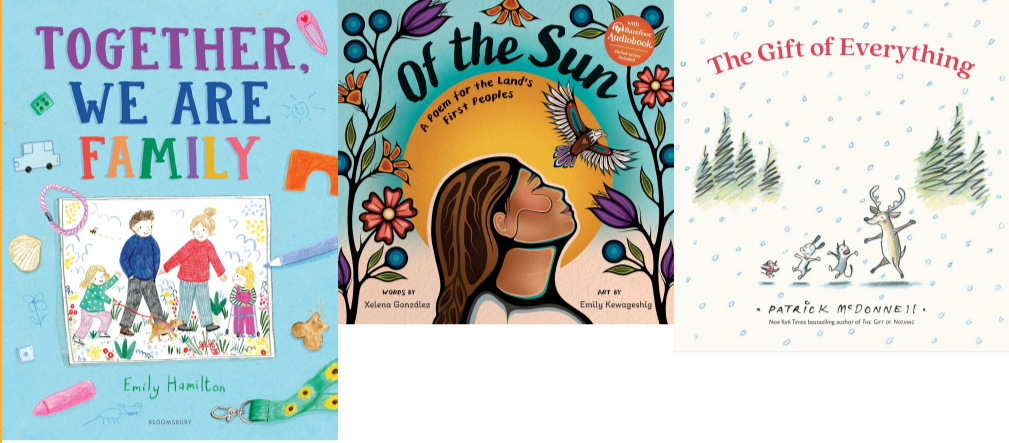
### MAXIMIZE LOVE MANAGE STRESS



***When I Became Your Mommy*** by Susannah Shane and Britta Teckentrup is a heartfelt celebration of the deep bond between parent and child. Teckentrup's warm and expressive artwork enhances the emotional tone of the text through soft colors and tender imagery that invite readers to linger on each page.

After reading the book, try creating as a family a simple booklet that begins with the prompt "When I became your..." and illustrates a favorite shared memory. Children can draw pictures while caregivers add a short message about what makes their bond special. The finished booklet will become a keepsake that celebrates love and togetherness.

For more books on love and family, check out [Together, We Are Family](#) by Emily Hamilton, [Of the Sun](#) by Xelena Gonzalez and Emily Kewageshig and [The Gift of Everything](#) by Patrick McDonnell.



### SING AND POINT



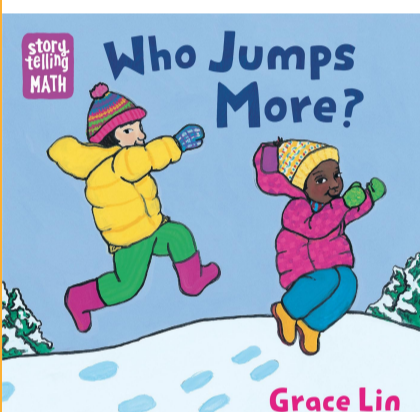
As short days lead into long evenings, now is the perfect time to explore the idea of the night with your young ones. ***As Night Falls*** by Donna Jo Napoli and Felicia Sala is the perfect book to wonder at the happenings of the nocturnal world.

This beautiful book will take you on a journey with animals who are active at night. But as the story moves forward, things may not be as they seem. This story opens the door to a world that is alive while we are fast asleep.

If you enjoy this book, check out these other books featuring the joys of the nighttime: [Snowmen at Night](#) by Caralyn and Mark Buehner, [Bright Winter Night](#) by Alli Brydon and Ashling Lindsay and [Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Night](#) by Megan Litwin and Nneka Myers.



### GROUP AND COMPARE



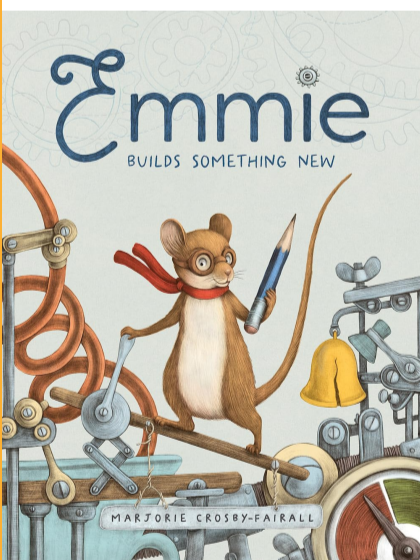
***Who Jumps More?*** by Grace Lin introduces spatial relationships to young children in a fun way. Mei and Olivia practice jumping in the snow like a deer and a rabbit, realizing along the way that their tracks show that they crossed the same distance but in different ways.

After reading the story with the child in your life, get outside together and practice making tracks in the snow. Can you make your footprints be close together? Far apart? Compare the size of your footprints next to each other and talk about what you notice about them.

For more seasonal books that showcase early math concepts, try counting wildlife in [Counting Winter](#) by Nancy White Carlstrom and Claudia McGehee. In [Red and Green](#) by Lois Ehlert, the bright cutouts offer a great opportunity to practice shapes, patterns and counting. You can also count your earnings with [Lemonade in Winter](#) by Emily Jenkins and G. Brian Karas.



### EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



***Emmie Builds Something New*** by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall introduces us to a wonderfully inventive mouse living in an attic. Emmie may be small, but her ideas are big. Her resourceful inventions fill up the attic, and everything is just the way she likes it... until trouble comes in the form of a cat. Emmie builds one new thing after another, trying to scare away the scary cat, until she starts wondering if maybe the cat isn't so scary after all.

This sparks her best idea yet, and, once again, Emmie builds something new. After reading the story with the child in your life, talk about the inventions they like to create or would like to make.

For more inventive play, check out [Jabari Tries](#) by Gaia Cornwall, [Rosie Revere, Engineer](#) by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts and [How To Make A Friend](#) by Stephen W. Martin and Olivia Aserr.



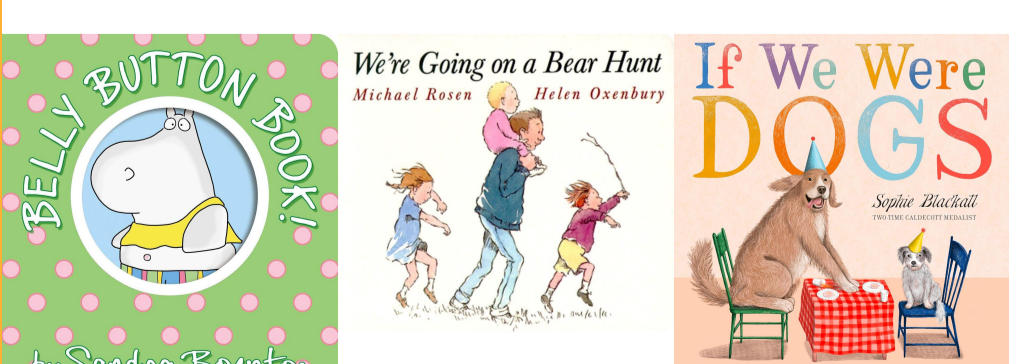
### AND DISCUSS STORIES



***Oh Dear, Look What I Got!*** by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury offers a fun comedy of errors. The repeating phrase "Oh dear, they gave me..." creates an opportunity for young children to participate, while clues in the illustrations help the reader to predict what "gift" the unfortunate narrator of the tale receives instead of his desired object.

As you read the story with the child in your life, encourage them to join in with the repeating words they recognize. When you ask the narrator's question of "Do I want that?" try having them give the reply "No, I do NOT!" for a fun call-and-response. With older children, help them notice the rhyming words in the book, like "coat" and "goat." See what other rhyming pairs you can come up with together.

For more books that encourage participation, try [The Belly Button Book](#) by Sandra Boynton, [We're Going on a Bear Hunt](#) by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury and [If We Were Dogs](#) by Sophie Blackall.



Kent District Library  
814 W River Center Dr NE Comstock Park, MI 49321  
Phone: (616) 784-2007

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